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Macmillan Modern Dramatists
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MACMILLAN MODERN DRAMATISTS

SEAN O'CASEY

James Simmons

Senior Lecturer in Anglo-Irish Literature
and Drama, New University of Ulster

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MACMILLAN

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First published 1983

Reprinted 1988

Published by
MACMILLAN EDUCATION LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

ISBN 978-0-333-30897-4 ISBN 978-1-349-15727-3 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-15727-3

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**To Bridget O'Toole and John McVeagh
for help and encouragement**

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2. *The Plough and the Stars*. The Abbey Theatre, 1976, (Act II), directed by Tomás MacAnna.
3. *The Silver Tassie*. The Abbey Theatre, 1972, directed by Hugh Hunt.
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5. *The Star Turns Red*. The Abbey Theatre, 1976, directed by Tomás MacAnna.
6. *Purple Dust*. The Abbey Theatre, 1975, directed by Tomás MacAnna.
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8. *Purple Dust*. Berliner Ensemble, 1966.
9. Designs for the costumes of the Berliner Ensemble's production of *Purple Dust*.
10. Sean O'Casey.

Plates 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 © Fergus Bourke.

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Plate 10 © W. Suschitzky.

Editors' Preface

The *Macmillan Modern Dramatists* is an international series of introductions to major and significant nineteenth and twentieth-century dramatists, movements and new forms of drama in Europe, Great Britain, America and new nations such as Nigeria and Trinidad. Besides new studies of great and influential dramatists of the past, the series includes volumes on contemporary authors, recent trends in the theatre and on many dramatists, such as writers of farce, who have created theatre 'classics' while being neglected by literary criticism. The volumes in the series devoted to individual dramatists include a biography, a survey of the plays, and detailed analysis of the most significant plays, along with discussion, where relevant, of the political, social, historical and theatrical context. The authors of the volumes, who are involved with theatre as playwrights, directors, actors, teachers and critics, are concerned with the plays as theatre and discuss such matters as performance, character interpretation and staging, along with themes and contexts.

BRUCE KING
ADELE KING